

Exoplanet science in Japan

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- Exoplanets and their formation studies have significantly developed in Japan in the last five years.
 - ~10 major institutes/universities have at least one to ~5 researchers and a lot of students.
 - One of the major fields in astronomy.
 - Intensive/strategic observations on Subaru.
 - Strong theoretical groups; successors of Kyoto model for Solar-system formation.
 - Coronagraph R&D (new idea, SPICA coronagraph)
 - However, still approximately $<1/6$ of total OPT/IR astronomers in Japan.

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- Also, it's time for Japanese OPT/IR community to establish the next big project after Subaru/AKARI.
 - But such discussions among the community tend to choose multi-purpose mission rather than single-purpose mission.
 - Therefore, we'd like to join "international collaboration missions for exoplanet" rather than seeking for Japan-independent mission. It could be Probe-class or Flagship-class.
 - Probably there could be other Asian countries that are becoming a similar situation in Japan.

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- One problem: there are (too) many choices at present. So, we need to choose one or two (e.g., one Probe and one Flagship?).
- But once selected, I believe international collaborations would make it easier for both US and (&EU) and Japan to realize such exoplanet missions at earlier time scale or to realize a bigger mission in a more future.